

Washington, DC -- In response to an open letter sent to elected officials along New York Regional Interconnection's (NYRI) proposed power line route, U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) released the following statement:

"While I am glad to see NYRI relent and agree to offer the Public Service Commission alternative routes, addressing concerns raised by myself and other local officials and community members, this move is long overdue. I want to commend the outpouring of unified community opposition by private citizens, businesses and elected officials who all agree that the current ill-conceived proposal would knife a scar through Upstate New York – clearly, their voices have spoken.

"Just last week, I released a study completed by the non-partisan Government Accountability Office (GAO) finding potentially serious safety and security risks posed by siting this high voltage power line along existing railroad rights-of-way, as NYRI has suggested.

"I will continue to work closely with officials at the federal, state and local levels, community groups, environmental organizations and local citizens to fight NYRI's poorly-planned proposal until they put forth alternative routes that are acceptable to local communities. NYRI keeps saying they are going to resubmit their application to the Public Service commission 'next month' or 'in the next few weeks,' but to this date they have not done so.

"I continue to call upon NYRI to reveal who the phantom investors are behind this ill-conceived endeavor or come forward to discuss honest alternative proposals. Short of these steps, I will continue to fight tooth-and-nail to prevent NYRI from running roughshod over the will of local property owners and communities."

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